



CITY OF NEW HAVEN
COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
54 Meadow Street, 9TH Floor • New Haven, Connecticut 06519



Board of Health Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2020

Present: Dr. James Hadler, Chair; Heather Reynolds, Dr. Frank Mongillo and Dr. Darnell Young

Staff: Maritza Bond, Director of Health
Tom Butcher, Ryan White Project Director

Call to Order:

Commissioner Hadler called the meeting to order at 5:49 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Hadler moved that the minutes from the August 12, 2020 and September 9, 2020 meetings be approved. Commissioner Reynolds seconded. Approved unanimously.

Public Comments or Statements:

No public present at the meeting.

Director of Health Updates:

The Commissioners agreed to Director Bond's request to change the agenda order to allow Tom Butcher, Director of the Ryan White Program, to make his presentation.

Ryan White Program/Getting to Zero:

Tom Butcher presented an overview of the Ryan White Program. He noted that Getting to Zero is an add-on to the program.

Mr. Butcher provided a history of the legislation, which was enacted in 1990 for services to people living with HIV/AIDS. The program provides a comprehensive system of care for people who are uninsured or underinsured up to 300% Federal Poverty Level (FPL). It works on a local as well as statewide level to provide care.

He presented an overview of the parts of the grant. Part A is funding provided to “eligible metropolitan areas” (EMAs), which goes directly to heavily impacted areas. New Haven is on the smaller end of the scale and became eligible in 1993. In 1995, Mr. Butcher became Director of the Ryan White Program. Part B gives funding to the states; Part C is for early intervention services (clinics) – Fair Haven; Hill Health, etc; Part D covers funding for children and women living with HIV and their families – Yale Child Study; and Part F is for Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) – Yale University.

The combined general population of New Haven and Fairfield Counties is approximately 1.8 million. As of December 31, 2018, New Haven/Fairfield EMA had 6,034 people living with HIV and 137 new cases. Not all are eligible for Ryan White. Approximately 70% of the EMA HIV/AIDS cases are African American and Hispanic individuals. New HIV cases are young Hispanic and African American men who have sex with men (MSM) and Black/African women. Other populations’ numbers have decreased.

Mr. Butcher shared an organization chart outlining the Planning Council and Key Players. Funding comes from Health Resources Service Administration (HRSA) Washington, DC and goes directly to the Chief Executive Officer (Mayor). Mayor designates Health Department as recipient (Ryan White Office) to administer. Planning Council (up to 45 members from New Haven and Fairfield Counties) is responsible for prioritizing services needed for people with HIV and the amount of money allocated based on data (epidemiology, needs assessment). 50% of Council are living with HIV.

Ryan White Office is designated by the Mayor to distribute Part A funds. Grant funds are allocated based on what Planning Council directs. The office monitors each service contractor for HRSA compliance (sub recipient). There are 28 contractors within the two counties. Also, participates in Planning Council meetings to provide data and input into Part A funding process. Interfaces with HRSA Project Officer.

Current award for FY2020 is \$5.4 million. New Haven HIV service providers received approximately \$1.4 million, about a third of the total. There are 2,100 clients in system overall that are Ryan White Part A clients (82% are African American/African Descent and Latinx). Services provided include ambulatory health care, mental health, substance use, oral health, medical case management, housing, emergency financial assistance, food and medical transportation. 90% of clients are virally suppressed and 98% are prescribed anti-retroviral therapy (ART).

COVID-19

Director Bond gave COVID-19 update. Since March, the total number of cases is 3,205. Case fatalities remain at 113. During the past two weeks, there's been a slight increase in cases from 22 to 63. There was a delay in the State's reporting system. Of the 63 cases, 59% are 25- to 49-year-olds. 40% are Hispanic/Latinx. 17% African American; 11% White and 29% Unknown. Majority of cases are male. Have seen an increase in hospitalizations; Commissioner Mongillo confirmed that tonight's numbers show 29 COVID-19 and nine in ICU.

Closely watching universities. About 11 Yale Ice Hockey team members tested positive, and the rest of the team has been quarantined. Yale University has been in communication with Mayor Elicker and Director Bond. Commissioner Hadler consults with Yale on outbreaks; their contact tracers have been unable to find any real contact with the community (no large gatherings). Looking at data.

Director Bond noted that the sludge surveillance information hasn't been available. Due to a supplies shortage, the surveillance team hasn't been able to collect specimens.

Department continues to monitor nursing homes' numbers. Had situation at Mary Wade with 100-year-old resident who tested positive in May; tested positive again in September. Health Department asked everyone who lived on the same floor as the resident to be tested. Those 14 individuals tested negative. One employee at Grimes Center tested positive. All other facilities are status quo.

Reviewed map of State counties – New London county and Windham county have had significant increase in cases. New London county is at 26 cases per 100,000 (red category); Windham Country is at 12 cases per 100,000 (orange category). New Haven County is at approximately 9 cases per 100,000, which is an increase. Part of issue is differences in approach to response; some counties might have to go back to Phase 2. Will revisit telecommuting policies; potentially scaling back and tightening up rules. Governor's Office announced State Health Department has developed an alert system to guide on which sectors might have to close by county. Looking at a different threshold – developing a 14-day rolling average and using a national metric.

Schools and day care centers being monitored. Small cluster being monitored at one day care location.

Director Bond gave report on school reopening plans and shared CT School Learning Model Indicators, which she presented at the October 13th Board of Education meeting. City of New Haven has been in remote learning. 120 or less special needs students at 11 approved schools scheduled on alternating days with not more than five students in a

classroom. Since September 28th eight staff tested positive; one student tested positive; five staff members and nine students quarantined in eight different schools. Found improper mask adherence and use, staff grouping together and not social distancing (lunch); inconsistent screening of staff and improper application of COVID-19 guidance.

COVID-19 Task Force, which consists of: Building Department, Fire Marshal, Environmental Health, Nursing, Mechanical/Plumbing Inspectors, State Representatives and New Haven Public Schools conducted school inspections. Yale Public School of Health part of visits to schools. As of yesterday, recommended only eight schools were ready to open. Requirement of Health Director is to include other issues in report, including mold, broken tiles, holes, etc. Inspection/Reopening Checklist includes signage, protocols, staff screening, ventilation inspection, hand hygiene options, floor markings, engineering controls for social distancing, major maintenance concerns, windows/screens and isolation room. Testing partners are Yale-New Haven Hospital, Fair Haven Community Health Center and Cornell Scott Hill Health Center. Contact tracing procedures were discussed. The Board of Education voted in August to reopen schools using the hybrid model on November 9th, so there was no vote at last night's meeting. However, the Superintendent of Schools made commitment no school will reopen until all the safety requirements are met.

Director Bond reported that Dr. Murphy will no longer provide testing services. Testing performed by his lab is for a number of viruses and bacteria but doesn't allow assessing for one virus. Since he was unwilling to modify his testing, which caused issues with insurance coverage since testing was for more than one virus, the agreement was terminated. Department is hoping to partner with university for saliva testing. Exploring screenings at schools to do pool saliva testing on an ongoing basis for reopening schools.

Director Bond announced Halloween guidance which is slightly modified from State guidance. Today, guidelines were announced at a press conference and are posted on the Department's website. Door-to-door trick or treating or trunk or treating is not recommended. However, there will be no enforcement as these are recommendations. Reviewed the guidance and alternative activities with the Commissioners.

Since there were employees testing positive, the Health Department convened a City Departments Heads' meeting/webinar. Inconsistencies across departments concerning mask use and prescreening were addressed.

Three of the six Learning Hubs have been approved and are treated similar to opening a school with inspection by the COVID-19 Task Force. Additional sites will be identified.

The Department is moving forward with mass vaccination clinic planning. Created a committee consisting of different departments and a consultant who is helping to write plan. Phase I is looking at first responder testing. Anticipating February 2021.

Department Program Reports

Administration:

Director Bond gave update on vacant positions:

- Deputy Director position is posted.
- Getting ready to interview for the Environmental Health Program Director position.
- Dr. Mongillo will be interviewing finalists for Senior Sanitarian position.
- Met with Human Resources in preparation to interview for Deputy Director, Vital Records Registrar and Environmental Health Program Director positions.

Many grants are underway. Received an award from Connecticut Health Foundation for approximately \$100,000+ for Community Health Worker Model.

Epidemiology:

There was nothing major to report since focus has been on COVID-19. Director will send PowerPoint for Commissioners to review. Doing well with Flu clinics, which are posted on the website. Over 230 flu vaccines distributed; over 30 physicals for children were done; there are four active Tuberculosis cases.

Commissioner Hadler moved to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Young seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.

Attest:



11/4/20

Brenda Pantelis
Executive Administrative Assistant

Date

Approved:



11/18/20

James Hadler, Chair
Board of Health Commissioners

Date

